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Mr. A. H. Belmon

DATE: April 25, 1958

Rosen Tamm

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PROM

Mr. R. R. Rodo

SUBJECT:

COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

On April 24, 1958, Mr. Office of Negse Tele. Room b7C Security, Department of State, advised Liaison that State Holloman has received a request from the Cuban Government to alert Gandy police departments in cities where Cuban Embassy and Consular officials are located to furnish police protection to those Cuban officials when and if necessary due to the tense political situation existing in Cuba. Mr. that State is handling this matter throughout the United States and inasmuch as State has no representative in Puerto Rico, he asked if the FBI could, as a cooperative measure, alert the necessary police in Puerto Rico to advised that the only Cuban this matter. Mr. official in Puerto Kico is Francisco Vilarino Martinez an honorary consular agent located at Ponce.

RECOMMENDATION:

If you approve, the attached airtel will be sent to San Juan instructing them to alert the appropriate police in Puerto Rico to this matter and pointing out that the FBI has nominterest in this situation other than to pass on the desired request. Liaison will then advise at State that his request has been handled.

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- Mr J. Belmon't
- 1 Mr. Nasca
- 1 Foreign Liaison Unit ALL DIFORMATION CONTACTED
- 1 Liaison Section
- 1 Mr. Bart Patt

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30 1958

OVERNMENT

Director, FB1

Legal Attache, Havana (109-54)

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

ALL DIFORMATION CONTACTED.

May 28, 1958

ReBulet 5-7-56 to LA, Paris, re "ESPIONAGE AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE MATTERS" (Bufile 66-6200-65), in accordance with which the following is submitted:

During the past six months, the political fortunes of President FULGENCIO BATISTA y ZALDIVAR have waned and waxed. In December, the insurrection led by FIDEL CASTRO RUZ was particularly active only in the Eastern end of the Island, but Constitutional guarantees continued to be suspended throughout the country and this suspension was renewed on 12-13-57 for another 45 days, and was terminated on 1-27-58.

Terrorism increased during the latter part of January and first of February, with arson, bombings and scattered assassinations a daily routine. Public apprehension began to soar during the middle of February and on 2-23-58 the kidnapping of the famous Argentine race driver just before the tragedy of the Cuban Gran Prix, added to the public frustration which blanketed the domestic political picture.

The audacity of the rebels was again shown by the burning of the day's collection of checks in the Havana clearing house on 2-26-58.

At this point the Church stepped forward and asked for peace and national unity. A cabinet change followed, but did not follow the lines of national unity. Politicians were changed for technicians and a group best described as a "caretaker" cabinet was established.

On 3-12-58, Constitutional guarantees were again suspended while terrorism increased. Elections were postponed from June 1st to November 3rd by action of the Congress on 3-25, followed by the giving of sweeping powers to the President by Congress declaring a National Emergency on 3-28-58.

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BATISTA told the Ambassador he did not understand why so many people wanted to be President of Cuba and that he, himself, had never desired to be President. Informed Embassy sources agree that all BATISTA has wanted was to be the power directing the country but not hold the actual office of President. They state that in 1952 when BATISTA took over the control of Cuba, he offered the Presidency to two individuals who refused the office.

Additional copies of this letter are being furnished for forwarding to the Miami Office for its information.

The Bureau will be kept informed.

This is being furnished for the information of the Bureau. It is requested that it not be revealed outside the Bureau.

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GOVERNMENT

Director, FBI

DATE:

June 5, 1958

Legat, Havana (109-12)

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SUBJECT:

CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER - CUBA

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As of possible interest to the Bureau, the following remarks were made by Cuban President FULGENCIO BATISTA to the U. S. Ambassador on the evening of June 2, 1958, as reported by the Ambassador at his staff meeting:

BATISTA stated that he intended to go through with elections on November 3, 1958, but it was the Ambassador's impression that BATISTA felt that he should approach the elections calmly and that perhaps he had made a mistake previously in acting too hurriedly to combat the opposition activities of the July 26 Movement under FIDEL CASTRO. The Ambassador's interest in the interview was to ascertain the President's plans for establishing a normal situation in the country under which free elections could be carried out. BATISTA stated that a normal situation would exist, the elections would be free elections, and he was planning to invite observers, possibly from the United Nations and/or the World Press, to be present in Cuba at election time.

In discussing the general political campaign picture, BATISTA referred to GRAU SAN MARTIN as a very smart, astute politician, but BATISTA said GRAU SAN MARTIN is in failing health, is receiving blood transfusions, and cannot be expected to live much longer. BATISTA added that his opposition still includes CARLOS-PRIO-SOCARRAS who, BATISTA said, is by no means as smart a man as GRAU SAN MARTIN. BATISTA mentioned MARQUES STERLING as another candidate, stating that STERLING had advocated elections and for that reason two attempts had been made on his life by members of FIDEL CASTRO's movement, because BATISTA said, FIDEL CASTRO does not want elections since he knows that he cannot win control of Cuba through elections. REG- 52 109 132 210

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It was then that CASTRO threatened an all-out offensive against the regime to begin on 4-5-58, including a general strike on 4-9, which failed. After this crisis, the political fever dropped and conditions in all parts of Cuba, outside of Oriente Province, began to return to normal. Nevertheless, on 4-25-58, the suspension of Constitutional guarantees was extended.

BATISTA on 5-7-58 invited the rebels to surrender. The situation appeared definitely under control. Congress on 5-15-58 ratified the decrees which the President had issued during the emergency.

After one month of quiet in the capital, two bombs were exploded in Havana on 5-17-58, but by the end of that month Havana is quiet, public order is restored throughout the island except for the disturbed conditions in the Oriente region, Constitutional guarantees remain suspended, and the election campaigns have started.

Except for the Communists, the anti-Batista political groups do not appear to be anti-United States and pro-Communist

An additional letter will be submitted to reach the Bureau by December 1, 1958.

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F. P.

UNITED OVERNMENT 6/25/58 DIRECTOR, FBI DATE: SAC, LOS ANGELES (109-21) b7C SUBJECT: CALIE (INFORMATION CONCERNING) FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA MATTERS @ POLITICAL Reference is made to the report of SA ROBERT CLARK Los Angeles dated 5/16/58 in the case entitled was.; ITSP," Bufile 87-37984, 00 - Detroit, Detroit file 87-4885, Los Angeles file 87-7176, setting forth b6 results of a search of subject's belongings at the Burbank Van and Storage Company, Burbank, California, under a search warrant on 5/6/58. Among his belongings were the document's quoted in the enclosed letterhead memorandum which has been prepared for possible dissemination. Information copies are being furnished the Detroit Office, which is origin in the above-mentioned criminal investigation, and to Miami in view of mention of corres-₽b7C pondence with CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS in Miami. No further action is being taken in this matter. Bureau (Encls. - 5) (Registered)
Detroit (Info.) (Encls. - 1) (Registered) Miami (Info.) (Encls. - 1) (Registered) Los Angeles (109-21) WJM:LFL (5)W-124-T ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

JUL 22 1958



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California June 25, 1958

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auti and Los Com con	On May 6, 1958, Investigation conducted horized by Assistant Un filed with United Stat Angeles, California, o in the possessi pany, Burbank, Californ hection with investigat hsportation of stolen p	l a search, united States ces Commission f household con of the Build This section of	under a searc Attorney oner Theodore goods belong urbank Van an	Hocke ing to d Storage ducted in	
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	Letter to Senor Vendome (Cuba)."	Carlos Prio	Socarras, Ho	tel	
	Lify In the envelope	were the fol	llowing lette	r drafts:	
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	"Senor Miguel Angel R Caribbean Legion Guatemala City, Guate "Dear Sir:	mala A	LL INFORMATION EFFEIN IS UNCLASS ATE <u>6/24/03</u> B	SIFIED /	ız fçak
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that you might like.

109-12-210-294 ENCLOSURE "I will exterminate Trujillo and his Army for you for two-hundred-thousand dollars (\$200,000)

"An Army of one-thousand (1000) men at thirty cents (30ϕ) a day if maintained one (1) year would cost over one-hundred-thousand dollars (\$100,000) or better, my proposed plan you would on need one-half $(\frac{1}{2})$ as many men.

American Money, and guaranteed or money back.

"I will also guarantee completion of proposed job in ninety (90) days.

	"If	inter	este	d you	ı can	cont	tact.or	send	a
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"Please write in English as I don't understand Spanish.

"Remember I can put you in the Governor's Seat in ninety (90) days.

"Sincerely	Yours

"Generalissimo Raphael Leonidas Trujillo Dominican Republic.

"Dear Sir:

"I have heard of your hatred for Miguel Angel Ramirez of the Caribbean Legion, so I thought I would write and offer a proposition that you might like.

"I will exterminate Ramirez and his Army an deliver Ramirez body to you in ninety (90) days for Two-Hundred-Thousand (200,000) American Dollars and guarantee it.

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"If interested you	can	contact	or	send	a
representative to this	addre	ess:			
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"Please write in English as I don't understand Spanish.

"Sincerely Yours,

"Name & Address."

"March 22, 1957 Phoenix, Arizona

"Senor Carlos Prio Socarras Hotel Vendome 4301 Collins Avenue Miami, Florida

"Dear Sir:

"This letter is in regards to the phone call to you that I made today. I have written an old friend of yours, Senor Miguel Angel Ramirez, of which I have not received an answer and knowing of your concern for the Cuban people, I have tried unsuccessfully to contact you, until I read this week's publication of 'Life,' of which I phoned and said I would write!

"So I will come to the point, I am a soldier of fortune of whom you probably have never heard. (The Scorpion) I can successfully rid Cuba of Fulgencio Batista and his Army within six (6) months for Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) Dollars and one (1) of your most loyal men whom knows Havana like the palm of his hand.

"If this interest_ you, then I can be contacted at this address or you may send a representative to:

T.C	PETTO	rotine	,00:	

"If this sounds ambiguous then remember some of the world's greatest soldiers of fortune. It's a big order but I can do it.

"Sincerely	Yours

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Inside the envelope were also postal registry receipts number 40108, 40109, and 40110, postmarked March 4, 1957, Registry Division, Phoenix. Arizona. issued in connection with letters from 2526 East Madison Street, to "Sr. Manuel Hernandez, Santa Rosa Prov., Rep. of Honduras"; "Generalissimo Raphael Leonidas Trujillo, Dominican Republic; and "Sr. Miguel Angel Ramirez, Caribbean Legion, Guatemala City, Guat." In the envelope was also registry receipt number 6878, postmarked March 23, 1957, Commerce Station, Phoenix, Arizona, issued in connection with a letter fro to "Sr. Carlos Prio Socarras, Hotel Vendome, 4301 Collins Ave., Miami, Fla."

The foregoing information is being loaned to your agency and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency without the approval of the F.B.I.

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	the previous week when they gave him some material which he considered to be propaganda against the United States. He stated one was a pamphlet entitled "Cuba is America's Hungary," which, he stated, criticized JOHN FOSTER DULLES and President EISENHOWER and the United States in general. It stated that the Cuban dictator BATISTA was associated with Communists, according to and accused the United States of murdering Cubans.
	was contacted by SA's MELTON L. ALEXANDER and JAMES L. PUGH on July 28, 1958, at which time he stated he was unable to furnish the pamphlet to which he had previously referred. He advised in addition that had indicated to him that his father was a wealthy importer in Cuba, importing chocolates. He advised that another one of the group referred to by him was named whom he described as being 16 or 17 years of age. B APPROX.
	On July 29, 1958, Mr. Spivey-Johnson Company, 2015 Third Avenue North, Birmingham, advised he had found a sticker on his store entitled, "Cuba is America's Hungary U. S. International Hypocrisy is Murdering Cuban Datriots " Also by letter received July 31, 1958, Mrs. Road, Birmingham, reported she had found a similar sticker on the windshield of her car. She enclosed this sticker, which is being retained in the files of this office.
	The above is being furnished for the information of the Bureau and Miami Office and no further action is being taken by the Birmingham Office.
	of Dr. furnished the following description
	Name: Dr. Race: White Sex: Male Age: 26 or 25, born in Cuba
•	Height: 5'6" Weight: Light Build: Small Hair: Black Complexion: Dark Eyes: Dark

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GOVERNMENT

· Director, FBI

DATE: August 19, 1958

Legat, Rio de Janeiro MATURE - Cul.

CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

Set forth hereinafter are the contents of a communication (confidential) received here, which may be of interest to the Bureau and the Legat, Havana.

"PARTICIPANTS:

Sr. Vasco T.L. Da Cunha, Ambassador of Brazi William G. Bowdler, Political Officer, American Embassy, Habana

"DATE: August 7, 1958 CLASSIFIED BY DISMITCH LOTET (DETIVATIVE) DECLASSIFY ON: 25X

"At a dinner given by Ambassador and Mrs. Smith at the Residence, I was approached by the Brazilian Ambassador who indicated that he wished to exchange views on the domestic political situation.

"Ambassador Da Cunha stated he was growing increasingly concerned over the trend of events during the past few weeks in Cuba. The reports which he had from Oriente indicated that the Army was taking heavy losses. As a result morals among the troops was growing worse, which in turn was reflected in increasing restiveness among the officers. detention of General SOSA de Quesada he was inclined to attribute to this, although he had heard other explanations suc as Quesada's attitude on the Ventura case. I stated that the reports which we have in general coincide with his, indicating, however, that we had little which could be regarded as confirme information (%)

"The Brazilian Ambassador also mentioned the increase in police brutality in Habana, particularly during the past month. His sources he regarded as good. He stated that in his judgment this situation had reached such a point that he thought the Diplomatic Corps should make some type of representation to the Government. He inquired whether we were aware of what was going on and what Ambassador Smith would think of the Diplomatic Corps saying something to the Minister of State

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8/19/58

Director, FBI
Re: CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY
FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER

as was done after the Haitian Embassy affair in 1956. I told him that we had received many reports of police brutality in recent weeks. As in the case of the reports from Oriente, it was difficult to verify them. As to Ambassador Smith's attitude re hi idea, I suggested that he might wish to speak directly to him about it. Ambassador Da Cunha then stated that he would talk to the Papal Nuncio first to see what his reaction was

"On the outlook for a solution to the Cuban situation, the Brazilian Ambassador was very pessimistic. From a military standpoint, he stated, there was a stalemate between the Army and the revolutionary opposition which could go on for some time. In the meantime the senseless bloodshed would continue and probably get worse. The tragedy is, he went on, that there is no ready solution. The elections, if held, would solve nothing. The only other alternative would be a public uprising sparked by the revolutionary opposition or a military coup by responsible officer who were tired with the existing state of affairs. Of the two he hoped that it would be the latter and that it would come soon. He was fearful of the chaos which would follow the overthrow of the regime, and thought that a strong military junta offered the best hope for controlling mob action.

"I indicated to the Ambassador that in general I agreed with his analysis of the situation and shared his preoccupation over what might happen if there were not a strong hand to control things if and when the Batista regime was overthrown

"In closing he indicated that he hoped the United States would use its preponderant influence in Cuba to encourage a solution. I stated that as much as this might appear desirable, we had an obligation not to intervene in the domestic affairs of another American Republic and that our policy toward Cuba was oriented by this principle. Ambassador Da Cunha stated that there eventually comes a time when for the sake of humanity a nation must not adhere too rigidly to legal concepts."

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Office Memorandum . United STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

Director, FBI

DATE: September 30, 1958

FROM

Legal Attache, Havana (109-12 🗐 🛣

SUBJECT:

CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER - CUBA

As of possible interest to the Bureau, Ambassador EARL E. T. SMITH furnished the following information concerning an interview which he had with Cuban President FULGENCIO BATISTA. The Ambassador had his interview with President BATISTA on September 20. BATISTA advised that elections would be held as scheduled in Cuba on November 3, 1958, and he estimated that approximately 60 per cent of the registered voters would take part in these elections. It is to be noted that FIDEL CASTRO has publicly announced that these elections would not be held, and it is expected that he will create incidents to disrupt this electoral process.

Concerning recent reported advances by rebel columns from Oriente Province into the neighboring provinces of Camaguey and Las Villas, BATISTA denied that these advances were taking place. It is to be noted that shortly after this interview which the Ambassador had, General TABERNILLA, Head of the Armed Forces, also denied that the rebels had infiltrated into Las Villas and Camaguey Provinces. However, it is known, from numerous reliable sources, that rebel columns have advanced into these provinces. [BATISTA claimed that the rebel movement was Communist-dominated and stated he would forward to the U. S. Ambassador documents which would prove this statement. The Ambassador did receive from the Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service Communist documents which were reportedly found in the possession of a rebel column. (Representatives of this office had previously seen these documents. documents were definitely of a Communist nature, but there was no proof that they had actually been found in the possession of rebel columns.)](4)

Concerning attempts made by FIDEL CASTRO to exact tribute from plantation owners operating in territory controlled by his forces, the President of Cuba, BATISTA, stated he would be accompanied to the controlled by his forces, the President of Cuba, BATISTA, stated he would be accompanied to the controlled by his forces.

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double the taxes of any concern which he found was paying such tribute to CASTRO. (It is common knowledge that such tribute is being paid by concerns in territory dominated by CASTRO, and reliable sources have stated that CASTRO is now imposing a 15 per cent tax on the products of coffee and sugar plantations operating in Oriente Province.)

BATISTA advised that he had no intention of departing from Cuba after the elections and indicated he felt that his presence was necessary in Cuba after such elections in order to be a tranquilizing force (5)

The main purpose of the interview on BATISTA's part was an attempt to convince U. S. authorities that he needed sufficient arms from the United States in order to police the country. The Ambassador explained to BATISTA that no arms would be forthcoming from the United States as long as hostilities existed in Cuba(s)

The Ambassador pointed out that the above information was classified "SECRET."

It is requested that the above information not be revealed outside the Bureau.

A detailed picture of present political activities in Cuba will be submitted to the Bureau by October 15, 1958.

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